

THE *edibles* ISSUE

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Horticulture

SPRING PLANNING GUIDE

FRUITFUL
FLOWERING SHRUBS

PERMACULTURE
PUTTING PLANTS TO WORK

**UNUSUAL
VEGGIES**
FOR ADVENTUROUS
GARDENERS

PLUS
LESSONS FROM
A ROOFTOP
GARDENER

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Display until July 6, 2013

Josh Schneider

Three recommendations from one with an eye for plants

JOSH SCHNEIDER LIKES the real thing. Case in point: He bought a Jersey cow for fresh milk in 1993. He first worked at a garden center before building his own greenhouse in central Illinois, where he toiled in the soil for several years. In 2000 he moved to California to work for a large grower behind the Proven Winners brand. In 2006 Josh started Cultivaris North America with two colleagues from Germany. Today, Cultivaris works with more than 50 plant hybridizers around the world to bring new plant varieties to market. They're also working with the Breadfruit Institute in Hawaii to solve the problem of hunger in the tropics. Josh says, "I could fill a magazine with my list of favorites," but he has narrowed it down to a few recommendations for today:

1 Dreamy dahlias (*Dahlia Dreamy Series*)

Josh says plants in the Dreamy Dahlia series flower profusely with a much more compact habit than other dark-leaved types. The bronze foliage showcases the brazen bicolor flowers (six colors available). They're also nearly self-cleaning, shedding their spent buds and flowering all summer long in containers or the border. The Dreamy Dahlia Series includes 'Eyes', 'Passion', 'Moonlight', 'Fantasy' and 'Inspire'. USDA Zones 9–11; annual elsewhere.

2 Buzz butterfly bushes (*Buddleja Buzz Series*)

Buzz Series butterfly bushes look good in a large pot or in the mid-border. Unlike so many of their forefathers, they won't grow large enough to swallow their neighbors or push the gutters off your house! They top out at four feet tall in the garden and two or three feet in pots. The varieties have large, elegant flowers and they're drought tolerant and pest resistant to boot. Varieties include 'Velvet', 'Magenta', 'Sky Blue', 'Lavender', 'Purple' and 'Ivory'. Zones 5–9.

3 'Saucy Red' salvia (*Salvia splendens* 'Saucy Red')

The flagship variety in the Saucy Series is a brilliant red that will scream, "Look at me, me, me!" from larger pots or the mid-border. Growing two to three feet tall and wide, it covers itself with large spikes of bright red blooms from May to October. It loves heat and sun but will thrive in a part-shade spot as well. Irresistible to hummingbirds and adventurous gardeners alike, the flowers keep coming through heat and humidity and good or bad weather. Next up in the series? 'Saucy Purple', coming in 2014. Perennial in Zones 7–10. ☞

MARIA ZAMPINI introduces plants through UpShoot (upshoothort.com).

